



Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to Speak at Reagan Institute Summit on Education

Secretary will participate in policy discussion with former Secretary of Education William Bennett

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced that current Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos will be joining former Secretary of Education William J. Bennett for a conversation at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education (RISE) in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2018.

"A national, bipartisan conversation on American education would not be complete without Sec. DeVos's voice as the current leader of our nation's education system," said Melissa Giller, chief marketing officer of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. "As head of the Department of Education, we are eager to hear how current policy will strengthen education in the U.S. and shape a system that prepares and equips students for the decades ahead."

DeVos and Bennett will discuss the policy priorities past and present that shape the American education system. Topics such as the Every Student Succeeds Act, school choice, measures of student achievement and alternatives to traditional higher education will be addressed in this session.

DeVos joins other leaders in education, policy, business and technology participating in RISE 2018, including LitWorld founder Pam Allyn, University of California President Janet Napolitano, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Purdue University President Mitch Daniels, Rep. Virginia Foxx, former Secretaries of Education John B. King, Jr., Arne Duncan and Sen. Lamar Alexander, and many others. Throughout the conference, bipartisan panels and plenaries will foster conversation on a wide range of education policy issues. These issues include lessons learned from the 1983 report on education "A Nation at Risk," the future of higher education, the role of states in pursuing educational excellence, innovation in the classroom and approaches to constructing bipartisan legislation.

Betsy DeVos currently serves as the 11th U.S. secretary of education. Before taking office in February 2017, she was chairman of Michigan-based investment service firm The Windquest Group. As secretary, DeVos works to promote equitable access to quality education, empower parents and local and state education systems and ensure higher education institutions are setting graduates up for professional success.

DeVos served as a mentor for at-risk youth in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for 15 years, an experience she says transformed her perspective on education. She has also served in leadership roles at many organizations, including Kids Hope USA, ArtPrize, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Kendall College of Art and Design and Mars Hill Bible Church. [For more information, click here.](#)

RISE 2018 is open to registered media. For more information, visit www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan-institute or follow RISE on Twitter @ReaganEdSummit. Join the conversation with #RISE2018.

Media Contact: Emilee Lamb — lamb@pinkstongroup.com or 571-480-2367

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About the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute in Washington, D.C.

Ronald Reagan said, “**Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.** We didn’t pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” The RISE Summit builds on the success of the non-partisan Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF), which, for the past five years, has brought together luminaries from across the political spectrum to examine the state of National Defense. With RISE, we plan to leverage our role as a convener to explore the future of American education.

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